Table of Contents

1. Chapter One
2. Chapter Two
3. Chapter Three
4. Chapter Four

Chapter One

" CloudClan attack! " the silver cat yowled , leaping off a tree trunk and onto the nearest cat below her, a brown tom. The cat cried out in pain, struggling to get free. " Reedshine! " the cat called, " Cinderkit's hurting me! "

A dark ginger tabby she-cat looked up from where she was eating a rabbit nearby, " Hush Leafkit! " Reedshine scolded gesturing to where a tortoiseshell she-kit was sleeping nearby. " Fiercekit is trying to sleep, please be more quiet. "

" I'm sorry. " Leafkit mewed as he finally managed to escape Cinderkit's hold on him, " I would expect better from you two. " the kits mother continued, " You are the leader's kits after all, you must set a good example! "

Cinderkit's thoughts drifted to her father, Twigstar, leader of CloudClan. He rarely visited his kits but when he did he always played games like mossball with them.

" But Reedshi-" Cinderkit began to protest until her mother cut her off. " I know you like to play games but you could seriously hurt your littermate, then he would have to be apprenticed late and I know neither of you want that. " her mother interrupted with a lash of her tail.

" But i'm just practicing for when i'm leader of CloudClan someday! " Cinderkit attempted to defend herself. Reedshine's gaze softened, " I know love, just be a little kinder to your littermate okay? Being leader isn't all about fighting and leading a Clan into battle. You have to be kind and considerate too. " Reedshine mewed with a nuzzle to her daughter's head.

" I understand Reedshine." Cinderkit replied " When I'm leader I'll be

the greatest leader this Clan has ever seen! "

Reedshine just gazed at her daughter as she said, " I'm sure you will little one, I'm sure you will... "

{ Really short but the next chapter is a lot longer than this one! Hope you enjoyed it so far! }

Chapter Two

" Cinderkit, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect your Clan with your life? "

" I do. " Cinderkit responded, trying to force her voice to sound confident but it came out as squeky as a newborn kit's.

Twigstar nodded and carried on, " Then from now on until the day you receive your warrior name you shall be known as Cinderpaw, may StarClan light your path. "

The gray leader turned to his deputy and Cinderpaw gasped, would she be given the Clan deputy as a mentor...? Her suspicions were soon confirmed correct as Twigstar meowed, " Creeksplash, you will mentor Cinderpaw. I know that you will pass on your bravery and intelligence to the Clan's newest apprentice. "

Cinderpaw had to fight hard not to jump up and down in excitement. So she would be getting the Clan deputy as a mentor! She had to stop the excited meow that almost escaped her mouth as Creeksplash approached. Since she had seen Thrushpaw and Poisonpaw's apprentice ceremonies she knew that apprentices and mentors were supposed to touch noses.

Cinderpaw touched her nose to the blue gray deputy's and the Clan began to cheer, " Cinderpaw! Cinderpaw! Cinderpaw! "

The silver tabby apprentice looked around at the gathered cats and puffed out her chest with pride before turning back to her newly appointed mentor. Creeksplash gave her a reassuring nod. " I'm proud to have one of the leader's kits as my apprentice. " he told her, " I hope you'll be as good as your father, he was the best apprentice in the Clan when I was your age! "

" I won't let you down Creeksplash! " Cinderpaw responded with a purr. The silver tabby apprentice turned away from her mentor for

a moment to check her surroundings. The sun had begun to fall behind the trees and most cats had retired to their dens for the night. The only cats left in the clearing were her, Creeksplash, Twigstar, Reedshine, and Fiercepaw and Leafpaw. Who had been given Blackstream and Shinefur as mentors. As well as the dusk patrol that consisted of Blackstream , Flowerfoot, Ashmuzzle, Ivyfrost, and Poisonpaw.

" Well, " Creeksplash meowed causing Cinderpaw to turn back to him. " I should be getting to my den for the night, you should go too yours soon too. We have a big day planned tomorrow! "

Before Cinderpaw could ask what her mentor had planned for tomorrow he bounded off and dissappeared into the warrior's den. Cinderpaw shrugged and decided she would ask him later, with nothing else to do she padded over to where Reedshine, Twigstar, Fiercepaw and Leafpaw were all sitting together in a group. Upon her arrival Reedshine and Twigstar put their tails around her shoulders.

" I'm proud of you. " Twigstar meowed his eyes shining. Reedshine touched the top of her kit's head with her muzzle. " I am too. " the dark ginger she-cat meows softly.

" Can you believe I got Creeksplash as a mentor!? " Cinderpaw asked her littermates who looked a little jealous. " You got lucky! " Fiercepaw exclaimed, " I got mean old Shinefur! She acts like she always has a burr in her fur! "

" I heard that! " Shinefur's voice calls out from the warrior's den causing Leafpaw and Cinderpaw to burst into a fit of laughter. " Respect your elders! " Twigstar scolded Fiercepaw with a flick of his tail.

" Who are you calling an elder?! " Shinefur's voice calls out again causing Twigstar to look a little embarrased this time. " I didn't mean it like that! " Twigstar began to apoligize but Shinefur spoke again.

" I'm just messing with you! Now quite down, not all of you have the dawn patrol tomorrow! " Shinefur meowed and the group left in

the clearing began to talk in more hushed voices.

" I bet your mentors have a lot planned for you kits tomorrow. You should be well rested. " Reedshine's voice broke the silence.

" Ask Thrushpaw to help you three put your nests together, I'm sure he'd be glad to help. " Twigstar meowed with a flick of his tail in the direction of the apprentice's den, a gesture that was probably telling them to get lost. As the trio began to walk away from their parents Twigstar's meow stopped them, "Sleep well kits, don't forget were proud of you. "

The trio gave their father a nod before they slipped into the apprentice's den. Inside, Thrushpaw, Deersong and Grassheart's only surviving kit was working on three nests. He had been born about a moon before Cinderpaw and her littermates. After the deaths of his sibling Fangkit and Mosskit, who had been taken by a fox in the dead of night, Deersong had moved back to the warrior's den in hopes that the work would take her mind of the deaths of her kits, while Reedshine took in Thrushpaw like he was one of her own until he became an apprentice not long before Cinderpaw.

His blue eyes showed his happiness that his friends would finally be sharing a den with him again. " Hey guys! " the cream colored tom purred, " Shinefur told me you three would be here so I thought I would just build your nests for you. "

Cinderpaw noticed the fact that Thrushpaw had put Fiercepaw's nest right beside his. Which to her wasn't that odd because every cat seemed to know that Thrushpaw had always had a little bit of a crush on Fiercepaw except Fiercepaw herself.

Cinderpaw flopped down onto her nest in between Poisonpaw and Leafpaw's with a yawn. " Well thanks for making the nests Thrushpaw! " she meowed a little drowsily. The older apprentice nodded, " No problem! "he mewed before he also laid down in his nest.

" We should all probably be getting to sleep. " Fiercepaw meowed as she curled up into a ball. The other apprentices nodded and said there goodnights.

As Cinderpaw drifted off she thought she could hear the sounds of a cats voice carrying on the wind. One she knew all too well...

Chapter Three

Cinderpaw was in a nest in the CloudClan nursery, three kits lay by her belly. Suddenly, the image was gone. Replaced by the scenery of a gray tabby with striking green eyes with a cream and white colored she-cat by his side.

" I promise I'll take care of her. Goodbye, I'll see you again soon. " the gray tabby meowed before turning around and climbing the slope into the moorland beyond, the she-cat that was with him gave her a small nod before following him.

Cinderpaw was watching them walk away when she was suddenly jolted awake. Her dark blue eyes took in her surroundings, she was no longer on the moor but back in her nest with Leafpaw and Fiercepaw standing over her.

" Wake up feather-brain! " Leafpaw meowed as he gave her a shake. " Creeksplash, Blackstream, Shinefur and Ivyfrost are waiting on us! "

Cinderpaw stood up swiftly, her first day as a full apprentice! The trio quickly ran to the camp exit where the warriors and Thrushpaw were waiting.

" Good luck kits! " Reedshine called from the other side of camp where she was sitting with Twigstar. The leader just gave his kits a nod before turning away.

" We decided it would be best to take you all out at once. " Creeksplash explained, " So we all will be going out together. And since it wouldn't be very fair to Thrushpaw to leave him out Ivyfrost has given us permission to take him with us. "

The apprentices nodded and Creeksplash led them outside. Immedietly Cinderpaw and her littermates stopped to gaze around. The forest's vast greenery was all around them, the prey scent was

rich and the air smelled amazing.

" This is why my favorite season is late Greenleaf. " Shinefur purred from her place beside Fiercepaw near the back of the group. The group set off again until they stopped in a place where Cinerpaw could smell nothing but pinesap. Creeksplash turned around to face the apprentices. " This, " the blue gray tom meowed, " is DarkClan territory. "

" Their leader Furzestar, " Ivyfrost continued, " was just made leader by StarClan two sunrises ago after the tragic death of their longtime leader Springstar. "

Blackstream nodded in agreement, " Yeah, " the black warrior nodded, " Springstar was leader since before I was born and until just a few sunrises ago, he was probably as ancient as the clans themselves! " the warriors chuckled while the apprentices just stood their awkwardly.

The group continued on until Cinderpaw could no longer smell pinesap. Here, it smelled of heather and pungent river water. This new land was a area with the occasional hill, otherwise it was just flatlands with a river running through it in the distance and the sparse amount of heather and gorse in some random places.

This looks just like the place in my dream... Cinderpaw thought before quickly shaking away a sudden feeling of anxiety that washed over her. *A dream is just a dream...* Cinderpaw attempted to convince herself but she couldn't help but feel a little bit of deja vu, this place looked familiar...yet she was an apprentice and had barely ever been outside the CloudClan camp! After all, a dream was just a stupid dream! Right....?

The group was still approaching the border with the other Clan's territory when they came to a sudden halt. " What's going o- " Cinderpaw began to ask but she was cut off. Creeksplash stiffened beside her and barely managed to warn his clanmates by crying out, " Fox! " before a rust colored creature came crashing out of the undergrowth.

Chapter Four

Cinderpaw broke into a run without even knowing it. At first, it was a slow jog, but it quickly escalated into a full on sprint. The sound of the commotion faded behind her as she continued to run, the wind was buffeting her fur and face making it harder for her to go as fast as she was but no matter how much her thoughts willed her legs to stop she kept moving. Out of fear? Maybe.... or was it something more than that?

Her legs finally came to a halt much to her relief and she let out a sigh. *Thank StarClan!* the silver tabby thought as her breath came out in ragged gasps. *I need to get back and help the others! Sure my fighting skills are as terrible as a kits but that's not the point...my clanmates...my friends could be injured! What kind of friend would I be if I left them to fight alone?*

Cinderpaw began to bound as fast as she could back to her clanmates when a smell worse than crow-food hit her nose. She let out a strangled noise of what was supposed to be a gasp of terror when she realized where she was standing and what was bearing down on her.

Her mother had always warned her about thunderpaths, about how cats died on them all the time if they weren't careful. The monsters that ran down them were vicious things, they didn't even care if their victim was a kit, they just roared their way down and if you didn't get out of the way you were going to join the ranks of StarClan.

Normally, Cinderpaw was the type that tried not to show any trace of fear, as she was afraid it would make her seem weak and others would take advantage of that shown weakness. But now, with the terrifying monster bearing down on her. Her confident and calm

composure she always had shown was no where to be found as she let out a cry of fear.

She was frozen, rooted to the spot as the monster neared, closer, closer. Cinderpaw screwed her eyes shut and braced herself for impact. *I'm sorry...I can't become the great leader you always wanted me to be Reedshine, my biggest regret will be not showing any cat how much I cared for them...*

As the monster came closer Cinderpaw felt her paws lift off the stone surface of the thunderpath and out of the monsters reach. It roared by as the silver cat lay on her back in the grass with a weight on top of her. The apprentice slowly opened her eyes, expecting to see the starry landscapes of StarClan when instead she got the sight of a pale gray tabby tom with forest green eyes standing over her. His eyes showed an emotion Cinderpaw couldn't read.

" Y-you... " Cinderpaw couldn't get the words out, " You saved my life! " she mewed to the tom above her. As the pale tabby opened his jaws to speak Creeksplash , Blackstream , Shinefur, Fiercepaw and Leafpaw emerged from the nearby bushes. Just as the patrol she had been apart of came running out a pretty tortoiseshell she-cat with white patches came running across the thunderpath from the other Clan's territory on the other side of the stone path.

" W-who are you? " Cinderpaw asked her savior and the tabby opened his jaws to speak once again but was interrupted again by the tortoiseshell she-cat that had arrived a few moments ago cry.

" Gorsepaw! " the she-cat cried, " Are you alright!? Should I fetch Berrywillow?! "

The pale tabby laughed a little, a sound Cinderpaw quickly grew to love. " I'm Gorsepaw, " the cat above her with the shining green eyes responded. " But I guess you already know that thanks to Lilyflower. And besides, that's not important right now. Are you alright? That must have been mortifying for you! Are you hurt? "

At the sound of Lilyflower's name, Creeksplash immedietly padded over to speak with the she-cat for reasons Cinderpaw didn't bother

to think about. Gorsepaw stepped off Cinderpaw only for her to be knocked down again by her littermates.

" We thought the fox got you! " Fiercepaw wailed, " Then we realized that you had run off and we had to leave Thrushpaw and Ivyfrost behind because Ivyfrost was terribly wounded and then we heard the monster and we thought we were too la- " Her kin couldn't finish her sentence as her words were cut off by loud sobs.

Cinderpaw stood up, " I'm okay guys, really. " she meowed softly trying to gain back her confident personality but failing, the silver tabby was still very shaken up by her near death experience. " Gorsepaw saved me, without him I would be dead on the thunderpath right now... " Cinderpaw shuddered at the thought.

Gorsepaw had a small smile on his face, his flashy green eyes were sparkling. " I'm just glad I got there in time! " he meowed quietly, " I was out with Lilyflower for the first time touring LightClan territory when I suddenly just started running! I even swam across the river and then in a flash I was here. And you know the rest, I saw you in the path of the monster and I knew I had to try and do something. "

Creeksplash finally broke away from Lilyflower. " We need to get back to camp. " The blue gray deputy commanded, " I have to make sure Thrushpaw and Ivyfrost made it back alright and that fox attack needs to be reported to Twigstar. "

With a nod to Lilyflower and Gorsepaw the deputy led the warriors away along with Fiercepaw. Before Leafpaw followed he felt the urge to thank the LightClan apprentice for his bravery.

" Thank you for saving my littermate. I don't know what I'd do if that monster had gotten her. I am forever in your debt. " Leafpaw meowed, his face solemn. At the brown apprentice's words Gorsepaw looked shocked. With that Leafpaw followed the patrol back to camp.

" We should be going too Gorsepaw. " Lilyflower meowed from where she stood on the LightClan side of the thunderpath already.

Only Cinderpaw and Gorsepaw were left in the grassy area. " Will I

see you again? " Gorsepaw blurted out breaking the silence.

" Yeah... " Cinderpaw meowed, " And I can't wait until I do. "

At her words Gorsepaw grinned, his eyes were shining with that unknown emotion Cinderpaw saw when he had first saved her. Cinderpaw felt a strange feeling and she could tell Gorsepaw felt the same.

" I'll be waiting by a cherry blossom tree at the next gathering. " Gorsepaw purred. " I'll see you there. " Cinderpaw purred back. The two cats from enemy Clans stared into eachothers eyes for another moment that felt like a lifetime before turning around and following their Clanmates home.

As the patrol headed back to camp and her littermates chatted about how lucky she was to be saved all Cinderpaw could think about was how Gorsepaw's eyes gazed into her blue ones and how it had felt so...right.